

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10928 111205Z

46

ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 EA-06 OPR-01 PM-03 SR-02

ORM-01 SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FS-01 VO-01 SCA-01

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P R 111111Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5494

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 10928

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, TH, VN

SUBJ: POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM

1. LUC DESLARZES, BANGKOK REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ICRC, TOLD THE DCM JUNE 10 THAT HIS ORGANIZATION HOPES TO BE ABLE TO EVACUATE SEVERAL THOUSAND FOREIGNERS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE. DESLARZES SAID THAT 2,634 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD AND 4,436 DEPENDENTS HAVE REGISTERED AT THE SAIGON ICRC OFFICE REQUESTING REPATRIATION. THIS GROUP INCLUDES 13 NATIONALITIES, BY FAR THE LARGEST OF WHICH ARE HOLDERS OF NATIONALIST CHINESE PASSPORTS.

2. DESLARZES SAID 52 AMERICAN HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD HAVE REGISTERED AND 28 DEPENDENTS. ALL OF THESE HAVE REQUESTED REPATRIATION TO THE UNITED STATES. DESLARZES DOES NOT HAVE THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE REGISTERED BUT THESE HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN FORWARDED FROM SAIGON TO THE ICRC HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA. DESLARZES EXPECTED TO HAVE THEM WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND SAID HE WOULD PASS THEM TO US. LET US KNOW IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT OBTAINED THESE NAMES BY OTHER MEANS.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 10928 111205Z

3. ASSUMING FINAL APPROVAL BY THE PRG AND THE RTG, THOSE

REFUGEES WHO MEET THREE CRITERIA WOULD BE EVACUATED FROM SAIGON ON AN ICRC PLANE BASED IN BANGKOK WHICH WILL MAKE SEVERAL FLIGHTS DAILY TO SAIGON CARRYING FOOD. THE CRITERIA ARE THAT THOSE TO BE EVACUATED SHOULD HAVE NO FUNDS WHICH THEY COULD USE TO EXIT VIETNAM COMMERCIALY VIA VIENTIANE; THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE NO EMBASSY IN SAIGON WHICH COULD HELP WITH THEIR REPATRIATION AND THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN EXPELLED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON.

4. DESLARZES IS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PRG WILL AGREE TO THE EXIT OF THESE PEOPLE FROM SAIGON AND THAT THE THAI WILL PERMIT THEIR TRANSIT THROUGH BANGKOK IF THE RTG IS ASSURED THAT THOSE BEING REPATRIATED WILL INDEED DEPART THAILAND. IN THIS CONNECTION, DESLARZES REQUESTED AND WE HAVE GIVEN HIM A LETTER CERTIFYING THAT WE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ONWARD MOVEMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS BROUGHT TO BANGKOK BY THE ICRC WHO WISH TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES.

5. THIS INFORMATION MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN PASSED TO THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH ICRC HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA. ICRC REQUESTS THERE BE NO PUBLICITY ON THIS MATTER AT THIS TIME.
WHITEHOUSE

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